

REMARKS

A more descriptive title has been provided.

Minor typographical errors were corrected in the specification.

Applicants affirm the election of Invention I, claims 1-7. The new set of claims 21-32 is directed to the elected invention.

New parent claim 21 recites, among other things, that a sheet of fabric material is inserted into an injection mold, and is thereupon bonded with a thermoplastic material to form an integrated fabric-thermoplastic part. After removal of this integrated part from the mold, a shoe upper is independently attached to the integrated part at a site remote from the mold.

As the Examiner acknowledged, Japanese Patent No. 402283303 does not insert any fabric material into a mold. No integrated fabric-thermoplastic part is ever formed. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 3 thereof, the shoe upper is attached to the outsole while the outsole is still in the mold, and not remotely therefrom.

As for U.S. Patent No. 384,483 to Walters, the fabric strips are “cemented”, not molded, to the outsole (see the claim) and are deliberately designed to be “removable” from the outsole (see the claim). Again, just like the Japanese patent, no fabric material is inserted into any mold, and no integrated fabric-thermoplastic part is formed.

It is respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to insert the fabric strips of Walters into the mold of the Japanese patent. First of all, Walters specifically teaches that his strips are to be removable so that they can readily be replaced when worn out. To do as the Examiner suggests is contrary to Walter’s specific teaching and intent. Moreover, even when these references are combined, there is no teaching of attaching an upper remotely from a mold.

Accompanying this communication is an Information Disclosure Statement identifying additional prior art known to applicants. The Rule 17(p) fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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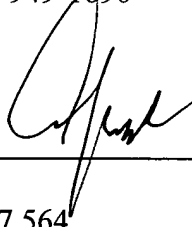
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